

# Local Pomeranian judged international champion

Red Robin, a three and a half pound Pomeranian show dog, proved you don't have to be big to be great. On Nov. 25 in Mexico City, Mexico, this tiny two-year-old male toy dog won the top award in the FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) competition. Recognized as the top working dog in Mexico, little Robin competed with Great Danes, Dobermans, and St. Bernards and won the championship.

This petite fellow now carries the ponderous title of American, Canadian, Mexican, FCI Champion Grey Lyn's Tinemite Red Robin Pomeranian.

Robin's owner, Phyllis Canfield of Fifth Line Esquesing, is extremely proud of his achievement, but gives all the credit to Robin's trainer Andrena Brunotte of Calstor Centre.

"The best way to get anything from an animal in competition is for it to love the handler," she said. "Andrena is Canada's top handler, I wouldn't make a move without her."

#### Good care

Mrs. Brunotte is sure Robin will be Canadian champion in March at the Sportsmen's Show in Toronto. "Our relationship has developed over a period of time," she explains. "Robin lives with me and knows me well."

Robin is kept in top health by Mrs. Brunotte with a combination of "90 per cent common sense and a good vet." When asked what one looks for in a good dog she answered, "You look for a dog like Robin."

A dog like Robin is one with four good straight legs, a short back, small ears, sharp eyes, high tail set, and a foxy expression on his face.

He is a cute little bundle of

fluff with an expression that says, "Here I am — look at me!" Robin's coat is beautifully thick and profuse in lustrous copper tones.

**Personality**  
According to Mrs. Brunotte a dog's personality must show through when in competition, much the same

as in a human beauty contest. There are so many top quality dogs competing that showmanship is of utmost importance. This is the first

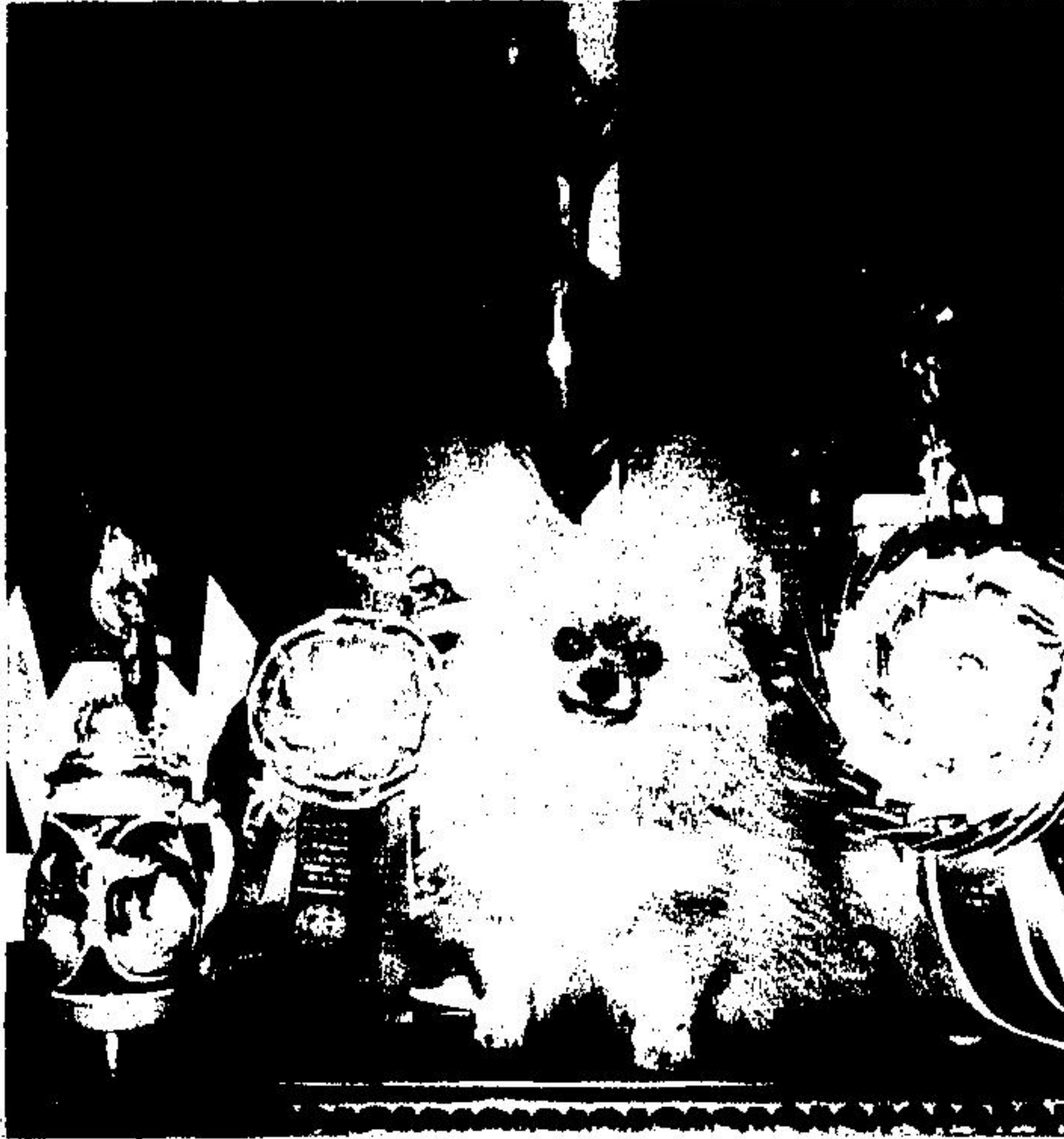
time in the FCI competition a Pomeranian has taken top honors, and Robin was the only Canadian dog there.

It is difficult to win the FCI awards as a dog must win four judgments to become champion. Robin took the best of breed in the first, best of show in the second, and first in group in the third and fourth shows.

This year is "The Year of the Dog" in Mexico and the

people "went wild" over Robin, Mrs. Canfield reports. He posed for thousands of pictures and appeared on TV several times.

Mrs. Canfield began raising dogs 13 years ago and now has 20, many of them champions. However Robin's recognition as best in show, competing against champion breeds from the world over, is probably the best Christmas present she will receive.



"LOOK AT ME" says Red Robin as he proudly sits surrounded by his many trophies and ribbons. Robin belongs to Mrs. P. Canfield of R.R. 3, Georgetown. This tree-and-a-half pound Pomeranian show dog won the international award this year in Mexico, naming him Top Working Dog in Mexico.

(Photo by J. Beaton)

## Manger is theme of Latin yuletide

Though Santa and gaily decked trees often appear nowadays in Central and South America, Christmas is traditionally a time for religious observances.

Mass, at midnight on Christmas Eve or early Christmas Day, forms the heart of the holiday in Latin America, and the creche or manger scene marks the season throughout churches and homes, say the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana.

Bountiful feasts, processions and other special events may provide a festive note, but custom says that gift-giving time is Three Kings' Day—Twelfth Night, January 6th, when the Wise Men brought their gifts to Jesus. Children put their shoes under the bed or in the window, hoping to have them filled with toys and gifts. Water and hay are set out for the Three Kings' horses or camels.

While many Latin American countries share these traditions and celebrate Christmas in similar ways, each country also has its own special festivities.

#### In Venezuela

Hallaca, a native Venezuelan dish, is an awaited delicacy during the Christmas season. It is made of corn meal with pork and chicken stuffing and numerous other ingredients, and then wrapped in plantain leaves to form a type of pie.

It's a mid-summer Christmas in Argentina, and the traditional feast is generally served outdoors. Rosebuds

and jasmine deck the table, which has as edible centerpiece a whole roast suckling pig.

Brazilian lore and legend says that Three King's Day is a time for poetry contests. Verses accompanied by guitars are featured.

Unique among Christmas customs in Chile is a grand fiesta that centers around horse racing.

#### Colombian custom

People parade in masquerade on Christmas Eve in Colombia. Each masquerader tries to guess the identity of others. When someone guesses correctly, he can claim a small gift from the person who was "unmasked."

Toro! In Lima, Peru, Christmas day is not exclusively a church holiday, because it also marks the greatest bullfight of the year.

In the island country of Costa Rica, "portals" are set up in homes. These are elaborate Nativity scenes sometimes filling an entire room.

An ancient custom in Guatemala is to "light the road to Bethlehem" by placing lanterns in windows and doorways for nine nights before Christmas.

Children in Panama participate in midnight mass on Christmas Eve by caroling to an accompaniment of castanets and tamborines.



## A Christmas Prayer

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